

BASE VISIT REPORT**NAVY SUPPLY CORPS SCHOOL (NSCS)****May 25, 2005****LEAD COMMISSIONER:** Admiral Harold W. Gehman Jr., USN (Ret)**ACCOMPANYING COMMISSIONER:** None**COMMISSION STAFF:** David Epstein**LIST OF ATTENDEES:** CAPT Brian D. Sheppard (Commanding Officer, NSCS); CAPT Robert L. Monette (Commanding Officer, Center for Service Support). The names and phone numbers of the other participants are listed on an enclosure that is in the file.**BASE'S PRESENT MISSION:** NSCS provides professional development through logistics, administrative and media training for DOD and international personnel. Besides the six-month basic course, whose students are primarily newly commissioned ensigns, there are a variety of short courses and an executive development course given four times each year. The Center for Service Support, which is collocated with NSCS, is the next higher office in the NSCS organization and it commands several "schools." CSS provides human performance solutions that meet the needs of the fleet using the most relevant and efficient delivery methods for continuous personal and professional development of Administrative, Media and Logistics professionals. The CSS is the only place in the Navy that designs training in those three areas. The courses themselves may be delivered elsewhere.**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RECOMMENDATION:** Close the naval installation at Athens, GA. Relocate the Navy Supply Corps School and the Center for Service Support to Naval Station Newport, RI. Disestablish the Supply Corps Museum.**SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JUSTIFICATION:**

- This recommendation closes a single-function installation and relocates its activities to a multi-functional installation with higher military value. Naval Station Newport has a significantly higher military value than NSCS and the capacity to support the NSCS training mission with existing infrastructure, making relocation of NSCS to Naval Station Newport desirable and cost efficient. Relocation of this function support the Department of the Navy initiative to create a center for officer training at Naval Station Newport.

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- Center for Service Support, which establishes curricula for other service support training, is relocated to Naval Station Newport with the NSCS to capitalize on existing resource and personnel efficiencies.

MAIN FACILITIES REVIEWED:

All of the facilities lie on an approximately 12 block residential area in Athens, GA. The commanding officer of NSCS is also the base commander. We visited two buildings on base, in addition to the one that houses the CSS and NSCS command offices.

The Executive Development Program occupies part of one building and includes a main meeting room, break-out rooms, facilities for group meals, and participant accommodations.

We also visited one of the classroom buildings where we toured a Marine Corps training facility for computer maintenance, and a Distance Training facility.

KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED:

- BRAC Staff comment – collocating NSCS with a fleet concentration area might eliminate about the same number of PCS moves as would Newport and significantly more TDY travel and per diem than would Newport. In addition, locating in Norfolk could facilitate training through easy access to fleet resources.
- BRAC Staff comment – Elimination of military personnel is an illusion as the Navy does not reduce end strength, but instead moves personnel occupying the eliminated billets to different commands.
- Commissioner Gehman appeared to concur in the issue of savings associated with military personnel. Before the visit he seemed to think that this was an “open and shut” case. However, during the visit he appeared quite concerned that the Navy had underestimated the costs associated with operating in Newport.
- COBRA data shows 52 positions eliminated and 449 positions realigned for a total of 501 positions. However, the “Recommendation for Closure” shows 513 direct jobs as the maximum potential reduction – clarification is needed.
- The COBRA shows four enlisted personnel report reported to Athens in 2009. An explanation or correction appears in order.
- USMC training for junior enlisted could be sent elsewhere according to the deputy director of the Marine Corps contingent. The Commanding Officer of NSCS said that the Marines could be sent elsewhere, but that it would probably be necessary to procure additional computer equipment. The USMC Commander confirmed that his unit has no particular ties to NSCS, but rather to Marine Corps aviation.
- There are very close ties between community, which provides fire protection and other services, and the Command.

INSTALLATION CONCERNS RAISED

- Per diem, housing costs, and civilian pay are significantly higher in Newport than in Athens.

- Extremely lean overhead structure exists since Commanding Officer NSCS is double-hatted as Naval Installations official; as a result, all base functions except public works/housing would have to be moved to Newport.
- Naval Station Newport lacks sufficient accommodations, including officer housing and both officer and enlisted TDY and bachelor accommodations.
- Access to University of Georgia, also in Athens, provides educational opportunities for faculty and staff.
- It is not clear to the command what “disestablish” the Navy Supply Corps Museum means – what happens to the collection and how will the public gain access to it? This is one of only eleven official Navy museums.
- Although NSCS provided the estimate of the cost of computer and HVAC build-out of the special computer rooms, they believe that figure might understate the actual cost, and they will try to develop a refined estimate.
- NSCS runs an executive development program four times a year for three weeks. The participants eat, sleep, and work together. The cost of this program is substantially less than other comparable programs, including that at Charlottesville. Newport may not have the required facilities.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS RAISED:

- 22,000 Retirees in the area depend on medical clinic, and there would be additional costs for Tri-care and prescriptions. They also would have to drive a long distance to reach the nearest commissary and exchange if NSCS were closed.

REQUESTS FOR STAFF AS A RESULT OF VISIT:

- Pursue the per diem, housing cost, and civilian pay issue previously identified.
- Pursue the capacity of Newport to receive NSCS and other incoming organizations.
- Obtain refined estimate of VTT and other specialize classroom facilities.
- Verify reported savings – savings may have been overstated.